

# *"Sitting on Top of the World"*

1915



1940

The Amazing Record of the Edmonton "Grads", official World's Basketball  
Champions, covering 25 years of play, 522 official games  
and over 125,000 miles of travel!



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# FOREWORD

In offering this little booklet to the general public, the object of the club has been to present in as concise form as possible a record of factual information covering the games played by the "Grads" since the organization of the club in 1915. Times without number the members of our various teams, as well as local sports writers, have been besieged with questions relating to team and individual records. It is hoped that this booklet may serve a useful purpose by supplying answers to such questions.

It is a simple matter to claim championships, but it is something else to establish those claims from official records. May we therefore point out that every figure given in this booklet has been taken from the official scoresheet of the game involved. In this connection the club wishes to acknowledge with thanks the generous assistance of Mr. Gerald Whitley, and Mr. Jake Buisman, who have painstakingly recorded the details of every game played by the Grads since they won their first Canadian title in 1922.

COMMERCIAL GRADUATES CLUB.

# HISTORY OF THE "GRADS"

During the fall of 1914, two Commercial classes were opened in the John A. McDougall School, Edmonton, under the direction of Mr. J. P. Page and Mr. E. E. Hyde. As physical education was a compulsory subject, and as no lady teacher was available, the two male teachers agreed that Mr. Page should take charge of the girls' training while Mr. Hyde would take charge of the boys. Basketball was already making considerable headway in Edmonton, and the Commercial girls decided to enter a team in the high school league. At that time they had no indoor gym, and were compelled to play their home games out of doors. However, despite this handicap, they surprised the other teams, and perhaps themselves, by winning their first high-school championship.

During the spring season of 1915, the girls added the first provincial title to their list by defeating the Camrose Normal School. Encouraged by these successes, they decided to keep on playing, and, on June 15, 1915, they formed the Commercial Graduates' Basketball Club. This was the origin of an organization which, as the Edmonton "Grads", is known throughout the entire world wherever the game is played.

Twenty-five years later (June, 1940), the "Grads" withdrew from further active competition after having established a record which is recognized as being without parallel in the history of sport. Here, in brief, is a list of the club's accomplishments:

1. Over this long period of 25 years, every member of every team with the exception of two girls (the latter being from other Edmonton schools) was either a student or a graduate of the McDougall Commercial High School.

2. At no time was the club ever sponsored by a private organization. It carried on, year after year, through the medium of the "gates" at the various games. No player ever received a dollar for her services, nor were positions ever obtained for players because of their athletic ability.

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3. During this 25-year period, the "Grads" played 522 official games in Canada, the United States and in Europe, winning 502 and losing 20 for an average of 96.2%. Several of the games lost were played against men's teams.

4. In establishing this record the "Grads" had two consecutive "winning streaks" of 147 and 78 games, while on several occasions the team went through a season's play without a loss.

5. During the 25 years the "Grads" lost but one provincial championship (1921). They won the first Canadian title in 1922, and never lost a Canadian series since that time. They won the first international series against Cleveland in 1923 (for the Underwood Trophy) and never relinquished that trophy during the 17 years it was up for competition. On the occasion of their 25th birthday party, the "Grads" were presented with the trophy as a permanent possession.

6. The "Grads" attended four consecutive sets of Olympic Games: Paris, 1924; Amsterdam, 1928; Los Angeles, 1932; Berlin, 1936. While ladies' basketball was not an official event on any of these programs, the "Grads" won 27 consecutive games which were arranged as exhibition contests in connection with the Olympics.

On June 6, 1940, the "Grads" celebrated the completion of 25 years of play at a historic banquet in the Corona Hotel, Edmonton. Except for three girls, every player returned to Edmonton for the occasion—many of them coming from far-distant points in Canada and the United States.

On October 14, 1940, the team was officially disbanded. However, realizing that there are hundreds of girls in Edmonton who are desirous of playing basketball, the executive decided to assist these girls by lending its financial support to a new organization which will sponsor two new teams (the "Comets" and the "Starlets") and which will be conducted along lines very similar to the former "Grads" and "Gradettes".



J. PERCY PAGE



THE SCHOOL THE "GRADS" MADE FAMOUS

With the exception of two girls, every player on every "Grad" team has at one time been a student of the McDougall Commercial High School, Edmonton. The school was completed in 1914, and the first Commercial team was organized during the season of 1914-15 by Mr. J. P. Page, the principal. Mr. Page has coached the team continuously since that time, and for over 20 years never missed either an actual game or a practice. The school was almost completely destroyed by fire on November 14, 1929. It was rebuilt the following year. It was in the school gym that the "Grads" practised twice weekly in preparation for their important games which were all played in the civic arena.

## DR. NAISMITH'S TRIBUTE TO THE "GRADS"

No other name in basketball is revered to the same extent as that of the late Dr. James A. Naismith, the inventor of the game, and a former member of the faculty of the University of Kansas. The following tribute which Dr. Naismith so kindly paid to the "Grads" is, therefore, all the more striking:

### TO THE COMMERCIAL GRADS, PAST AND PRESENT:

Permit me to add my hearty congratulations to the many that must have poured in from your host of friends and admirers on this your twenty-first birthday. Your record is without parallel in the history of basketball. There is no team that I mention more frequently in talking about the game. My admiration is not only for your remarkable record of games won (which of itself would make you stand out in the history of basketball) but also for your record of clean play, versatility in meeting teams at their own style, and more especially for your unbroken record of good sportsmanship. It is the combination of all these things that makes your record so wonderful.

My admiration and respect go to you also because you have remained unspoiled by your success, and have retained the womanly graces notwithstanding your participation in a strenuous game. You are not only an inspiration to basketball players throughout the world, but a model for all girls' teams. Your attitude and success have been a source of gratification to me in illustrating the possibilities of the game in the development of the highest type of womanhood.

This message would not be complete without a reference to my good friend Mr. Percy Page, who, of course, is chiefly responsible for your success. You are indeed fortunate in having a man like Mr. Page as your coach, for I regard him as the greatest coach and the most superb sportsman it has ever been my good fortune to meet.

Most sincerely yours,

(Sig.) JAMES NAISMITH.



# ALBERTA PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

In 1914 the Harold A. Wilson Company, of Toronto, donated a shield for competition among girls' teams in Alberta. The first game for this shield was played between McDougall Commercial High School, Edmonton, and Camrose Normal School. The following year the student team of Commercial High became known as the Commercial "Grads". In 1924 the Wilson Trophy was replaced by a cup donated by Miss Edna Bakewell, of the University of Alberta, and all subsequent games have been played under the jurisdiction of the Alberta Basketball Association. The following is a complete record of all games played for these two trophies.

1914—McDougall Commercial	12	Camrose Normal	7	1930—Commercial Grads	56	Calgary Centrals	14
1915—Commercial Grads	13	Camrose Normal	2	Commercial Grads	31	Calgary Centrals	15
1916—Commercial Grads	32	Wetaskiwin High	14	1931—Commercial Grads	104	Calgary Centrals	24
1917—Retained by Grads; no challenge filed.				Commercial Grads	38	Calgary Centrals	27
1918—Commercial Grads	17	Stettler High	7	1932—Commercial Grads	63	Gradettes	29
1919—Commercial Grads	21	University	18	Commercial Grads	80	Gradettes	39
1920—Commercial Grads	24	University	19	1933—Commercial Grads	87	Gradettes	43
1921—Commercial Grads	17	University	13	Commercial Grads	78	Gradettes	35
Commercial Grads	23	University	29 (a)	1934—Commercial Grads	35	Calgary Beavers	22
1922—Commercial Grads	56	Barons High	14	Commercial Grads	99	Calgary Beavers	21
1923—Commercial Grads	22	Barons High	2	1935—Commercial Grads	59	Calgary Beavers	27
1924—Commercial Grads	27	University	13	Commercial Grads	48	Calgary Beavers	26
Commercial Grads	21	University	15 (b)	1936—Gradettes	31	Calgary Wittichens	25 (e)
1925—Commercial Grads	12	Varsconas	11	Gradettes	34	Calgary Wittichens	37
Commercial Grads	18	Varsconas	22 (c)	1937—Commercial Grads	74	Calgary Beavers	27
Commercial Grads	21	Varsconas	11	Commercial Grads	58	Calgary Beavers	31
1926—Commercial Grads	32	Gradettes	10	1938—Commercial Grads	52	Calgary Buffaloes	32
Commercial Grads	47	Gradettes	23	Commercial Grads	56	Calgary Buffaloes	13
1927—Commercial Grads	22	Calgary Centrals	10	1939—Edmonton Gradettes	42	Calgary Buffaloes	44
Commercial Grads	47	Calgary Centrals	12	Edmonton Gradettes	32	Calgary Buffaloes	48 (f)
1928—Commercial Grads	37	Calgary Centrals	9 (d)	1940—Edmonton Gradettes	40	Calgary Buffaloes	47
1929—Commercial Grads	43	Calgary Centrals	13	Edmonton Gradettes	58	Calgary Buffaloes	29 (g)
Commercial Grads	46	Calgary Centrals	10				

**Summary:** Grads have won 23 out of a possible 24 provincial titles, and 36 out of 38 games played. Average point score in provincial games, 44 to 19.

(a) In 1921 the University protested the playing of Connie Smith on the ground that she was still a student of Commercial High, and not eligible to play as a "Grad". The game was replayed, with Connie a spectator, and the University won.

(b) Regular two-game series were instituted in 1924.

(c) The Grads and Varsconas played a best-two-in-three series in 1925, the Grads winning the first and third games.

(d) Only one game was played in 1928, the Calgary Centrals deciding they were not strong enough to justify a second game.

(e) In 1936 the Grads did not compete by reason of going to the Olympic Games at Berlin; however, the Gradettes stepped into the breach and retained the title for the Grad organization.

(f) (g) The Grads did not compete in either of these series, having been granted a bye into the Canadian finals.

# WESTERN CANADIAN FINALS



MARGARET MACBURNERY

1926—Commercial Grads	18	Vancouver "Canucks"	13	(Vancouver)
Commercial Grads	25	Vancouver "Canucks"	12	
1927—Commercial Grads	34	Vancouver "Canucks"	19	(Edmonton)
Commercial Grads	30	Vancouver "Canucks"	18	
1928—Commercial Grads	40	University of B. C.	24	(Edmonton)
Commercial Grads	24	University of B. C.	21	
1929—Commercial Grads	59	Vancouver "Meralomas"	20	(Edmonton)*
1930—Commercial Grads	37	University of B. C.	20	(Vancouver)
Commercial Grads	26	University of B. C.	14	
1931—No series played				
1932—Commercial Grads	100	Vancouver "Witches"	45	(Edmonton)**
Commercial Grads	98	Vancouver "Witches"	56	
1933—Commercial Grads	94	Vancouver "Province"	58	(Edmonton)
Commercial Grads	74	Vancouver "Province"	42	
1934—Commercial Grads	45	Vancouver "Province"	27	(Vancouver)
Commercial Grads	35	Vancouver "Province"	30	
1935—Commercial Grads	63	Vancouver "Province"	24	(Edmonton)
Commercial Grads	64	Vancouver "Province"	42	
1936—No series played; Grads attended Olympic Games				
1937—Commercial Grads	43	Vancouver "Spencers"	15	(Vancouver)
Commercial Grads	37	Vancouver "Spencers"	26	
1938—Commercial Grads	80	Victoria "Superiors"	34	(Edmonton)
Commercial Grads	78	Victoria "Superiors"	19	

1939-1940—The Grads did not compete, having been granted a bye into the Canadian finals. In 1939 the Calgary "Buffaloes" defeated Vancouver and then went on to defeat Winnipeg. In 1940, Vancouver defeated the Gradettes (40-26, 46-31, 31-42, 48-38) for the western title, and were then defeated by the Grads for the Canadian title. For scores, see next section.

**Summary:** The Grads have won all 21 games played. Average point score, 52 to 28.

\* Only one game was played in 1929.

\*\* In this series, 299 points were scored, the highest ever made by the Grads and their opponents.



ELSIE BENNIE

# FIRST CANADIAN CHAMPIONS » THE "GRADS" OF 1922



DAISY JOHNSON

J. PERCY PAGE

NELLIE PERRY

ELEANOR MOUNTFIELD  
(CAPT.)

DOROTHY JOHNSON

CONNIE SMITH  
WINNIE MARTIN

# CANADIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

The first Canadian championship series was held in London in 1922, when the Grads met the London "Shamrocks". One game was played under boys' rules and one under girls' rules which accounts for the unusual scores in this particular series. Since 1923 all games have been played under boys' rules which are now official throughout Canada.

1922—Commercial Grads	8	London "Shamrocks"	21	(London)
Commercial Grads	41	London "Shamrocks"	8	
1923—Commercial Grads	34	London "Shamrocks"	22	(Edmonton)
Commercial Grads	17	London "Shamrocks"	6	
1924—Commercial Grads	26	Toronto Ladies A. C.	6	(Edmonton)
Commercial Grads	23	Toronto Ladies A. C.	14	
1925—Commercial Grads	18	Toronto Y. W. H. A.	1	(Edmonton)
Commercial Grads	17	Toronto Y. W. H. A.	10	
1926—Commercial Grads	19	Toronto "Lakesides"	24	(Toronto)
Commercial Grads	27	Toronto "Lakesides"	6	
1928—Commercial Grads	64	Halifax University	6	(Edmonton)
Commercial Grads	83	Halifax University	12	
1929—No championship held				
1930—Commercial Grads	47	Toronto "Lakesides"	17	(Edmonton)
Commercial Grads	41	Toronto "Lakesides"	27	
1931—No championships held.				
1932—Commercial Grads	60	Windsor "Alumnae"	32	(Edmonton)
Commercial Grads	46	Windsor "Alumnae"	18	
1933—Commercial Grads	79	Toronto Ladies A. C.	24	(Edmonton)
Commercial Grads	72	Toronto Ladies A. C.	32	
1934—Commercial Grads	84	Windsor "Alumnae"	20	(Edmonton)
Commercial Grads	47	Windsor "Alumnae"	30	
Commercial Grads	57	Windsor "Alumnae"	30	



UNDERWOOD INTERNATIONAL TROPHY

PARIS OLYMPIC TEAM » THE "GRADS" OF 1924



ELEANOR MOUNTFIELD  
NELLIE PERRY

CONNIE SMITH  
MARY DUNN

J. PERCY PAGE

ABBIE SCOTT  
WINNIE MARTIN

DAISY JOHNSON  
DOROTHY JOHNSON

1935—Commercial Grads	34	Windsor "Alumnae"	30	(Windsor)
Commercial Grads	58	Windsor "Alumnae"	31	
Commercial Grads	44	Windsor "Alumnae"	31	
1936—No championships held; Grads attended Olympic Games				
1937—No championships held				
1938—Commercial Grads	72	Toronto "Consols"	28	(Edmonton)
Commercial Grads	66	Toronto "Consols"	29	
Commercial Grads	58	Toronto "Consols"	13	
1939—No championships held; Calgary "Buffaloes" won the Senior "A" title, while the Grads retained the Senior "Open".				
1940—Commercial Grads	48	Vancouver "Westerns"	47	(Edmonton)
Commercial Grads	59	Vancouver "Westerns"	36	

**Summary:** The Grads have never lost a Canadian championship series. They have played 31 games, winning 29 and losing two. The average point score per game has been 49 to 21.

## "GRAD" CAPTAINS

1914 - 1915	Nellie Batson*
1915 - 1918	Winnie Martin**
1918 - 1919	Elena Todd
1919 - 1921	Winnie Martin
1921 - 1922	Eleanor Mountifield
1922 - 1924	Winnie Martin
1924 - 1926	Connie Smith
1926 - 1927	Dorothy Johnson
1927 - 1932	Elsie Bennie
1932 - 1935	Margaret MacBurney
1935 - 1936	Gladys Fry
1936 - 1939	Noel MacDonald
1939 - 1940	Etta Dann

\* Miss Batson was captain of the first Commercial High School team out of which the "Grads" were formed.

\*\*Miss Martin was the first captain of the "Grads" and held that honor from 1915 to 1924 except for two years when she was attending university.

# UNDERWOOD INTERNATIONAL TROPHY GAMES

In 1923, in order to encourage basketball among girls' teams, and particularly teams in Canada and the United States, the Underwood Typewriter Company donated the "Underwood Trophy" for competition on a challenge basis. In order to challenge, a team must hold the championship of its own province or state. Some of the greatest games ever played have featured the struggle for this trophy which has never left the hands of the Grads since it was first won by them in their memorable series against the Cleveland "Favorite-Knits" in 1923.

1923—Commercial Grads	19	Cleveland "Favorite-Knits"	13	1924—Commercial Grads	44	Chicago "Lakeviews"	10
Commercial Grads	34	Cleveland "Favorite-Knits"	20	Commercial Grads	40	Chicago "Lakeviews"	11
Commercial Grads	41	Toronto "Maple Leafs"	11	Commercial Grads	22	Cleveland "Favorite-Knits"	7
Commercial Grads	26	Toronto "Maple Leafs"	13	Commercial Grads	40	Cleveland "Favorite-Knits"	19
Commercial Grads	20	Chicago "Uptown Brownies"	17	Commercial Grads	33	Warren Elks	11
Commercial Grads	25	Chicago "Uptown Brownies"	20	Commercial Grads	33	Warren Elks	20
Commercial Grads	35	Warren "National Lamps"	8	Commercial Grads	26	Chicago "Uptown Brownies"	13
Commercial Grads	27	Warren "National Lamps"	13	Commercial Grads	39	Chicago "Uptown Brownies"	8

AMSTERDAM OLYMPIC TEAM » THE "GRADS" OF 1928



KATE MACRAE  
MAE BROWN

ELSIE BENNIE (CAPT.)  
MILDRED MCCORMACK

J. PERCY PAGE  
JOAN JOHNSTON

GLADYS FRY  
MARGARET MACBURNAY

1925—Commercial Grads	29	Chicago "Lakeviews"	14	Commercial Grads	82	Pocatello "Indians"	20
Commercial Grads	22	Chicago "Lakeviews"	13	Commercial Grads	113	Pocatello "Indians"	22
Commercial Grads	51	Minneapolis "Ascensions"	9	1932—Commercial Grads	44	Chicago "Red Devils"	34
Commercial Grads	33	Minneapolis "Ascensions"	3	Commercial Grads	49	Chicago "Red Devils"	25
Commercial Grads	24	Guthrie "Red Birds"	14	1933—Commercial Grads	74	Chicago "Red Devils"	35
Commercial Grads	21	Guthrie "Red Birds"	5	Commercial Grads	60	Chicago "Red Devils"	48
Commercial Grads	35	Chicago "Tri-Chis"	12	Commercial Grads	75	Chicago "Rickett's Cafe"	35
Commercial Grads	34	Chicago "Tri-Chis"	8	Commercial Grads	54	Chicago "Rickett's Cafe"	29
1926—Commercial Grads	19	St. Louis "Curlees"	14	Commercial Grads	54	Chicago "Rickett's Cafe"	38
Commercial Grads	24	St. Louis "Curlees"	8	1934—Commercial Grads	100	Chicago "Spencer Coals"	39
Commercial Grads	32	Guthrie "Red Birds"	9	Commercial Grads	46	Chicago "Spencer Coals"	37
Commercial Grads	45	Guthrie "Red Birds"	9	1935—Commercial Grads	60	Des Moines "A. I. B."	28
Commercial Grads	31	Detroit "Centrals"	30	Commercial Grads	49	Des Moines "A. I. B."	41
Commercial Grads	34	Detroit "Centrals"	27	Commercial Grads	56	Des Moines "A. I. B."	28
1927—Commercial Grads	33	St. Louis "Undertakers"	13	Commercial Grads	54	Chicago "Usherettes"	36
Commercial Grads	33	St. Louis "Undertakers"	14	Commercial Grads	42	Chicago "Usherettes"	27
Commercial Grads	25	Cleveland "Newman-Sterns"	10	Commercial Grads	55	St. Louis "Shaw Stephens"	20
Commercial Grads	28	Cleveland "Newman-Sterns"	22	Commercial Grads	51	St. Louis "Shaw Stephens"	24
Commercial Grads	27	Chicago "Taylor-Trunks"	19	Commercial Grads	43	St. Louis "Shaw Stephens"	24
Commercial Grads	39	Chicago "Taylor-Trunks"	8	1936—Commercial Grads	54	Des Moines "A. I. B."	40
Commercial Grads	69	Minneapolis "Bankers"	5	Commercial Grads	43	Des Moines "A. I. B."	37
Commercial Grads	57	Minneapolis "Bankers"	7	Commercial Grads	40	El Dorado "Lion Oilers"	44 <sup>33</sup>
1928—Commercial Grads	26	Chicago "Uptown Brownies"	12	Commercial Grads	37	El Dorado "Lion Oilers"	35
Commercial Grads	44	Chicago "Uptown Brownies"	26	Commercial Grads	38	El Dorado "Lion Oilers"	29
1929—Commercial Grads	56	Seattle "Gerald's Cafe"	24	Commercial Grads	41	El Dorado "Lion Oilers"	24
Commercial Grads	37	Seattle "Gerald's Cafe"	16	1937—Commercial Grads	50	Cleveland "Fisher Foods"	24
Commercial Grads	33	Chicago "Uptown Brownies"	11	Commercial Grads	42	Cleveland "Fisher Foods"	17
Commercial Grads	43	Chicago "Uptown Brownies"	14	Commercial Grads	48	Cleveland "Fisher Foods"	26
Commercial Grads	56	Detroit "Centrals"	14	Commercial Grads	53	Wichita "Thurstons"	18
Commercial Grads	29	Detroit "Centrals"	17	Commercial Grads	48	Wichita "Thurstons"	12
Commercial Grads	50	Cleveland "Blepp-Knits"	31	Commercial Grads	46	Wichita "Thurstons"	25
Commercial Grads	27	Cleveland "Blepp-Knits"	13	Commercial Grads	31	Tulsa "Stenographers"	23
1930—Commercial Grads	56	Seattle "Ferry Lines"	17	Commercial Grads	38	Tulsa "Stenographers"	29
Commercial Grads	58	Seattle "Ferry Lines"	38	Commercial Grads	35	Tulsa "Stenographers"	46 <sup>33</sup>
Commercial Grads	24	Chicago "Taylor-Trunks"	34 <sup>33</sup>	Commercial Grads	27	Tulsa "Stenographers"	19
Commercial Grads	40	Chicago "Taylor-Trunks"	13	1938—Commercial Grads	40	Chicago "All-Stars"	33
1931—Commercial Grads	80	Chicago "F. P. Cardinals"	33	Commercial Grads	42	Chicago "All-Stars"	26
Commercial Grads	109	Chicago "F. P. Cardinals"	24	Commercial Grads	40	Chicago "All-Stars"	31
Commercial Grads	62	Leavittsburg "Aces"	51	Commercial Grads	61	Cleveland "Fisher Foods"	38
Commercial Grads	84	Leavittsburg "Aces"	41				



LOS ANGELES OLYMPIC TEAM » THE "GRADS OF 1932



HELEN STONE

GLADYS FRY

J. PERCY PAGE

ELSIE BENNIE

EDITH STONE

BABE BELANGER

MILDRED MCCORMACK

MARGARET MACBURNIEY, CAPT.

DORIS NEALE

Commercial Grads	53	Cleveland "Fisher Foods"	24	Commercial Grads	37	St. Louis "Legionnaires"	25
Commercial Grads	36	Cleveland "Fisher Foods"	44*	Commercial Grads	61	Cleveland "Nokolds"	32
Commercial Grads	61	Cleveland "Fisher Foods"	48	Commercial Grads	39	Cleveland "Nokolds"	26
Commercial Grads	75	Canton "Engravers"	25	Commercial Grads	43	Cleveland "Nokolds"	34
Commercial Grads	79	Canton "Engravers"	52	Commercial Grads	41	Chicago "Queen Annes"	29
Commercial Grads	68	Canton "Engravers"	32	Commercial Grads	46	Chicago "Queen Annes"	34
Commercial Grads	41	Wichita "Thurstons"	27	Commercial Grads	33	Chicago "Queen Annes"	35
Commercial Grads	43	Wichita "Thurstons"	22	Commercial Grads	61	Des Moines "A. I. B."	20
Commercial Grads	33	Wichita "Thurstons"	29	Commercial Grads	49	Des Moines "A. I. B."	24
1939—Commercial Grads	35	St. Louis "Legionnaires"	24	Commercial Grads	61	Des Moines "A. I. B."	34
Commercial Grads	27	St. Louis "Legionnaires"	28	Commercial Grads	47	Wichita "Thurstons"	26
Commercial Grads	50	St. Louis "Legionnaires"	34	Commercial Grads	45	Wichita "Thurstons"	30
				Commercial Grads	44	Wichita "Thurstons"	24

1940—No games were played for the Underwood Trophy. Two exhibition series were played, against Wichita and Chicago. For scores see section "American Exhibition Games". The trophy itself was retired from competition, and was given by the donors to the Grads as a tribute to their remarkable record.

**Summary:** Out of 120 games played for the Underwood Trophy the Grads have won 114 and lost six; average point score, 45 to 24.

\* Games lost. In the series against the Taylor-Trunks (May 3rd and 5th, 1930) the Grads lost the first game by a score of 34 to 24. This loss broke a consecutive string of 78 wins. At the second game, which the Grads won by a score of 40 to 13, all records for attendance at any sporting event in Edmonton were broken when 6,792 spectators jammed their way into the arena.

\*\* In 1933 the Durant "Cardinals" defeated the Grads in a series played to determine which team should represent North America at the Olympic Games. The Grads had to wait three years before meeting the same team again. On this occasion (May 28th to June 3rd, 1936) the Durant team played under the sponsorship of the Lion Oil Company, of El Dorado. The Grads won three games of the best-of-five series.

## CANADIAN EXHIBITION GAMES

In practically every case these games were played on the courts of the Grads' opponents, and usually on trips in connection with the Canadian finals.

1920—Commercial Grads	53	Saskatoon Varsity	8	Commercial Grads	34	Kamloops "Stars"	7
Commercial Grads	47	Saskatoon Y.W.C.A.	15	Commercial Grads	35	Victoria "Stars"	8
1922—Commercial Grads	46	Lethbridge "Aces"	11	Commercial Grads	23	Kamloops Boys	20
Commercial Grads	19	St. Thomas C. I.	16	1926—Commercial Grads	44	Winnipeg "Stars"	9
Commercial Grads	29	Toronto "All-Stars"	11	Commercial Grads	40	London "Grads"	15
1924—Commercial Grads	28	Calgary "All-Stars"	0	1928—Commercial Grads	55	Port Arthur	9
1925—Commercial Grads	36	Winnipeg "Normals"	21	Commercial Grads	61	Hamilton "Stars"	14
Commercial Grads	30	Victoria "Stars"	6	Commercial Grads	56	Calgary "Chinooks"	9

BERLIN OLYMPIC TEAM » THE "GRADS" OF 1936



MABEL MUNTON  
HELEN NORTHUP

GLADYS FRY (CAPT.)  
SOPHIE BROWN

J. PERCY PAGE  
ETTA DANN

NOEL MACDONALD  
BABE BELANGER

MARGARET MACBURNIEY  
DORIS NEALE

1929—Commercial Grads	23	Toronto "Parkdales"	17	Commercial Grads	51	Winnipeg "Eagles"	17
Commercial Grads	31	Toronto "All-Stars"	15	Commercial Grads	116	Saskatoon "Grads"	15
Commercial Grads	50	Regina "Torrid Zones"	12	1936—Commercial Grads	90	Regina "All-Stars"	16
1930—Commercial Grads	50	Kelowna "All-Stars"	18	Commercial Grads	107	Peterborough "Stars"	6
1931—Commercial Grads	44	Gradettes	20	Commercial Grads	99	Ottawa "All-Stars"	11
Commercial Grads	123	Toronto "All-Stars"	19*	Commercial Grads	90	Montreal "Stars"	20
Commercial Grads	100	Toronto "All-Stars"	18	Commercial Grads	47	Gradettes	25
1932—Commercial Grads	32	Prince Rupert Boys	26	1937—Commercial Grads	58	Victoria "Superiors"	10
Commercial Grads	72	Victoria "Stars"	24	Commercial Grads	70	Calgary "Rep" team	27
Commercial Grads	70	Gradettes	28	1939—Commercial Grads	39	Windsor "Alumnae"	20
Commercial Grads	84	Regina "Smeeds"	23	Commercial Grads	71	McMaster University	28
1933—Commercial Grads	84	Calgary "Stars"	22	Commercial Grads	51	Niagara Falls	11
1934—Commercial Grads	81	Gradettes	29	Commercial Grads	65	Toronto "United"	25 **
Commercial Grads	62	Gradettes	41	Commercial Grads	87	Montreal "Olympics"	14
Commercial Grads	104	Fort William	8	Commercial Grads	91	Queen's University	25
Commercial Grads	63	Montreal "Stars"	6	1940—Commercial Grads	73	Edmonton Gradettes	37
Commercial Grads	49	Toronto "All-Stars"	12	Commercial Grads	58	Edmonton Gradettes	35
Commercial Grads	64	Winnipeg "Eagles"	4	Commercial Grads	101	University of Alberta	20
Commercial Grads	81	Gradettes	10	Commercial Grads	65	University of Alberta	5
1935—Commercial Grads	98	Gradettes	22	Commercial Grads	85	"Grad Cubs"	30
Commercial Grads	107	Gradettes	13	Commercial Grads	71	"Grad Cubs"	22

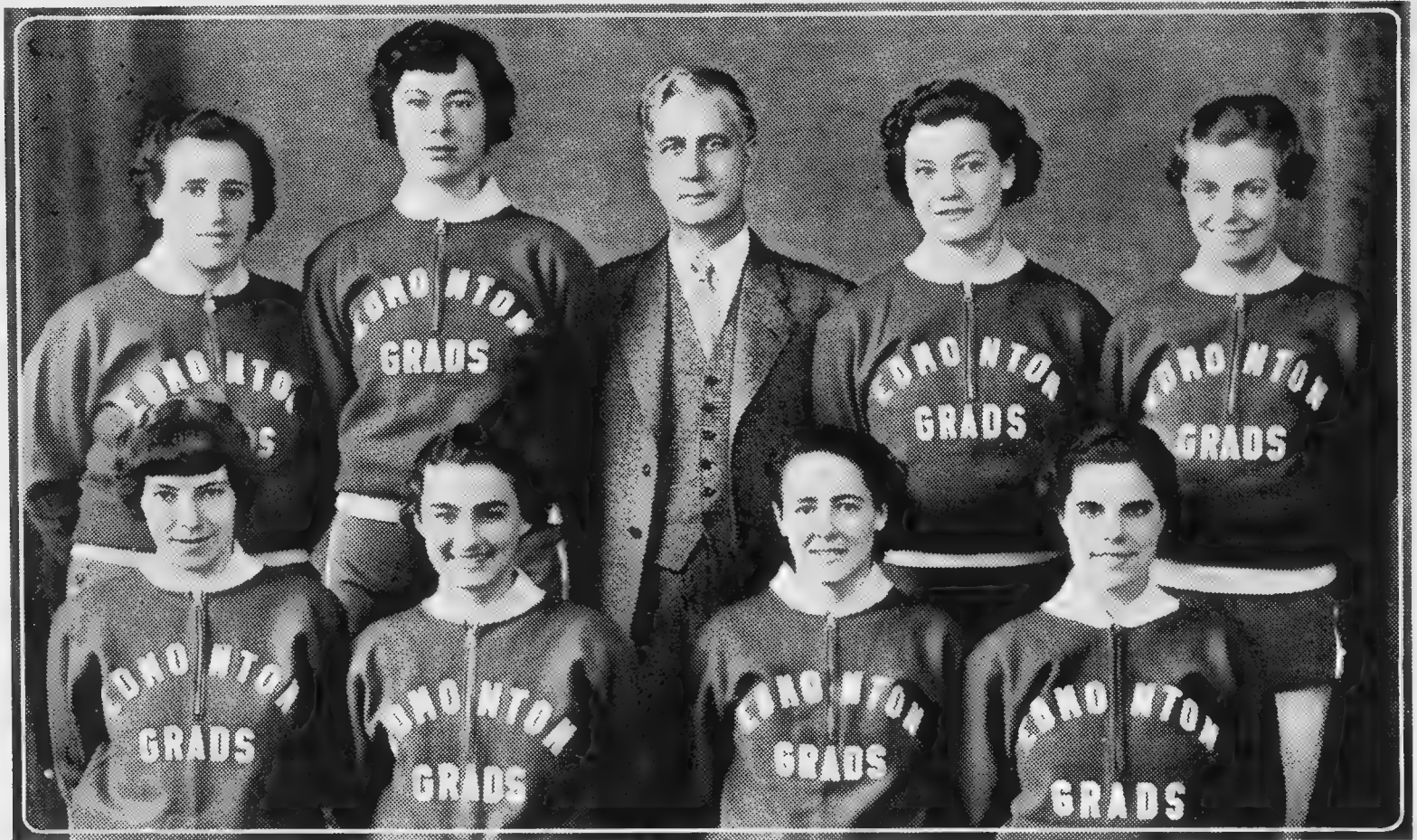
In addition to these games, three games were played against men's teams in 1938, in each case the game being played on the men's floor. The results were as follows: Grads 29, Lethbridge 30; Grads 40, Medicine Hat 28; Grads 34, University of Alberta 38. The totals of these games are included in the general summary towards the end of the book under the caption, "Men's teams".

**Summary:** The Grads have won 59 of the above 61 exhibition games, and, in addition, 35 others against Edmonton teams. Total won, 94; lost two. Average point score per game, 63 to 16.

\* In 1931 the Canadian finals were not played. During the fall, the Toronto team that had qualified for the eastern finals played a two-game series with the Grads.

\*\* This game was played in two parts—the first half against the "British Consols" (32-14) and the second half against the Toronto Ladies A. C. (31-11). The latter team used Stella Walsh, of Cleveland, to bolster their team. She was held scoreless by Etta Dann.

WORLD CHAMPIONS » THE "GRADS" OF 1937



MABEL MUNTON  
ETTA DANN

NOEL MACDONALD (CAPT.)  
HELEN NORTHUP

J. PERCY PAGE  
BABE BELANGER

WINNIE GALLEN  
SOPHIE BROWN

BETTY ROSS

# AMERICAN EXHIBITION GAMES

The first 19 games were all played away from home, and had no bearing on any title.

1925—July	6—Commercial Grads	47	Fort Worth, Texas	6	1930—August	6—Commercial Grads	33	Seattle, Wash.	22
July	12—Commercial Grads	27	Pasadena, California	7	August	7—Commercial Grads	34	Seattle, Wash.	8
July	15—Commercial Grads	62	San Francisco, Cal.	2	August	16—Commercial Grads	67	San Francisco, Cal.	1
1926—April	5—Commercial Grads	19	Chicago, Ill.	17	1932—May	16—Commercial Grads	27	Chicago, Ill.	18***
April	6—Commercial Grads	24	Warren, Ohio	19	August	14—Commercial Grads	40	San Francisco, Cal.	7
April	7—Commercial Grads	16	Cleveland, Ohio	23	1933—May	17—Commercial Grads	67	Chicago, Ill.	53
April	8—Commercial Grads	26	Cleveland, Ohio	21	1939—March	2—Commercial Grads	25	Detroit "V-8's"	13
April	9—Commercial Grads	10	Cleveland, Ohio	15*	1940—May	18—Commercial Grads	52	Wichita "Thurstons"	34
April	10—Commercial Grads	8	Cleveland, Ohio	13**	May	20—Commercial Grads	50	Wichita "Thurstons"	33†
1927—April	24—Commercial Grads	29	Norwalk, Conn.	26	May	22—Commercial Grads	37	Wichita "Thurstons"	28
April	26—Commercial Grads	22	Detroit, Mich.	15	June	1—Commercial Grads	56	Chicago 'Q.A. Aces'	34
April	29—Commercial Grads	23	Chicago, Ill.	17	June	3—Commercial Grads	45	Chicago 'Q.A. Aces'	38†
					June	5—Commercial Grads	62	Chicago 'Q.A.' Aces	52

**Summary:** Games played, 18; won, 15, lost 3. Average point score, 32 to 16.

\* These games played against Cleveland formed part of a series of ten games which the Grads played on 11 consecutive nights. The first two games were played in Cleveland, and the last two in New York. Transparent plate glass backboards were used in all four games, a tremendous handicap to the Grads who had never used them in any previous game.

\*\* The smallest score ever recorded by the Grads.

\*\*\* This game against Chicago was played in Calgary as a benefit contest staged by the B. P. O. Elks.

† The two series against Wichita and Chicago were played as exhibition series when the American A.A.U. refused to grant travelling permits to these two teams.

WORLD CHAMPOINS » THE "GRADS" OF 1938



MURIEL DANIEL

JEAN WILLIAMSON  
SOPHIE BROWN

J. PERCY PAGE  
ETTA DANN

NOEL MACDONALD (CAPT.)  
HELEN NORTHUP

MABEL MUNTUN

# INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

In 1933 the first official series for the North American championship was held between the Commercial Grads (Canadian champions) and the Durant "Cardinals", winners of the American national tournament, held annually at Wichita, Kansas. Such a series is staged each year. It should be noted that these series differ from those staged for the Underwood Trophy inasmuch as ONLY national winners may compete for the North American title, while provincial and state winners may compete for the Underwood Trophy.

1933—June 3—Commercial Grads 52	Durant "Cardinals" 59	May 29—Commercial Grads 37	Tulsa "Stenographers" 30
June 5—Commercial Grads 48	Durant "Cardinals" 83*	June 1—Commercial Grads 43	Tulsa "Stenographers" 40
June 7—Commercial Grads 43	Durant "Cardinals" 45	1936—April 21—Commercial Grads 42	Tulsa "Stenographers" 24
1934—June 9—Commercial Grads 41	Tulsa "Stenographers" 31	April 23—Commercial Grads 34	Tulsa "Stenographers" 24
June 11—Commercial Grads 35	Tulsa "Stenographers" 28	April 25—Commercial Grads 33	Tulsa "Stenographers" 40
June 13—Commercial Grads 48	Tulsa "Stenographers" 41	April 27—Commercial Grads 35	Tulsa "Stenographers" 30
1935—May 25—Commercial Grads 53	Tulsa "Stenographers" 49	1937—No series played; see below.	1939, 1940 } No series played;
May 27—Commercial Grads 49	Tulsa "Stenographers" 53	1938—No series played; see below.	} see below.

**Summary:** In 1937 the American title was won by a team from Little Rock. The team disbanded immediately following the tournament, and did not file a challenge for the N. A. title. Two of the other three teams that played in the semi-finals (Tulsa and Wichita) filed challenges for the Underwood Trophy, the results of these games being shown elsewhere. In 1938 the American title was won by the "Anicos," of Galveston, Texas. They declined to play for the N. A. title on the ground that their girls could not be spared from work.

Out of 14 games played, the Grads have won nine and lost five, and have won three of the four series. The average point score has been 42 to 41.

\* This game was played under girls' rules, with which the Grads were entirely unfamiliar.

## GAMES PLAYED COINCIDENT WITH THE OLYMPICS

Grad clubs have attended four sets of Olympic Games; at Paris in 1924; Amsterdam, 1928; Los Angeles, 1932, and Berlin, 1936. Basketball for girls has never been an official event on any of these programs, but through the courtesy of the Federation Sportive Feminine Internationale a series of exhibition games has been arranged on each occasion of the Grads' visits to Europe, with the following results:

**Summary:** Played 27 games; won 27. Average point score, 69 to 11.

1924—Commercial Grads 64	Paris 16	Commercial Grads 109	Paris 20
Commercial Grads 65	Paris 12	Commercial Grads 81	Lyons 9
Commercial Grads 69	Paris 17	Commercial Grads 68	Milan 2
Commercial Grads 37	Strasbourg 8*	Commercial Grads 67	Luxemburg 6
Commercial Grads 65	Roubaix 4	Commercial Grads 88	Rheims 11
Commercial Grads 61	Lille 1	Commercial Grads 87	Strasbourg 6
1928—Commercial Grads 65	Paris 18	Commercial Grads 53	Paris 14
Commercial Grads 46	Paris 14*		



1932—Commercial Grads	40	San Francisco	7	1936 Commercial Grads	67	Rome	8
Commercial Grads	32	Prince Rupert	26**	(cont.) Commercial Grads	25	Milan	8
Commercial Grads	72	Victoria	24	Commercial Grads	83	Strasbourg	25
1936—Commercial Grads	100	London, England	2	Commercial Grads	87	Douai	15
Commercial Grads	85	Nice	9	Commercial Grads	87	Lens	10
Commercial Grads	77	Monte Carlo	14*	Commercial Grads	86	Paris	14***

\* These teams held the European championship.

\*\* Young men's team.

\*\*\* This Paris team was the one which unexpectedly defeated the Durant "Cardinals" at the Women's Olympics in London. The same official handled the game in London and the game in Paris.

## COMPLETE SUMMARY OF ALL GAMES PLAYED

When the "Grads" were formed in 1915 no one ever dreamed that the team would attain world-wide publicity. It was not until 1922 when the Grads first won the Canadian title that sufficient interest was taken in the team to justify the keeping of permanent records. In the interval from 1915 to 1922, it is believed that the team played 147 games. To this number may be added 375 official games played from 1922 to 1940, a total of 522. Of this number the Grads have won 502 and lost 20, a record believed to be without parallel in girls' sport. The following chart includes a condensed summary of all these games.



BABE BELANGER

Title	Played	Won	Lost	Pts. for	Against	Av. Score
North American .....	14	9	5	593	577	42 to 41
Underwood Trophy .....	120	114	6	5386	2844	45 to 24
Canadian Finals ..	31	29	2	1402	649	45 to 21
Western Finals .....	21	21	0	1104	580	52 to 28
Alberta Finals .....	38	36	2	1629	709	43 to 19
Canadian Exhibition Games .....	93	93	0	5411	1431	58 to 15
American Exhibition Games .....	25	22	3	908	522	36 to 21
European Exhibition Games .....	24	24	0	1722	263	72 to 11
Men's teams .....	9	7	2	343	295	38 to 33
	375	355	20	18174	7638	48 to 20



GLADYS FRY

THE GRADS OF 1939 » WORLD CHAMPIONS



MABEL MUNTON

JEAN WILLIAMSON

J. P. PAGE

NOEL MACDONALD

WINNIE GALLEN

KAY MACRITCHIE

HELEN NORTHUP

ETTA DANN

SOPHIE BROWN

## GAMES, POINTS AND AVERAGES

To satisfy the curiosity of those "demon statisticians" who are never happy unless they have the complete figures turned in by every player, the following table has been carefully compiled from official records. Only the names of those players who averaged at least five points a game are included.

It should be pointed out that such a table as this is not a fair estimate of a player's ability. Several players were rarely taken out of a line-up, while others played but a few minutes during a game. On the other hand, guards are not expected to compete with forwards or centres in the matter of scoring.

For these reasons, this table is inserted merely because of its factual information, and not in any way as a measurement of the players' relative worth to their teams.

Players	Games	Points	Average	Players	Games	Points	Average
Noel MacDonald .....	135	1874	13.8	Jean Williamson .....	71	544	7.6
Margaret MacBurney .....	164	2079	12.6	Helen Stone .....	61	412	6.7
Babe Belanger .....	136	1441	10.5	Nellie Perry .....	40	242	6.5
Gladys Fry .....	161	1679	10.4	Abbie Scott .....	30	184	6.1
Mildred McCormack .....	94	924	9.8	Mabel Munton .....	148	852	5.7
Helen Northup .....	105	1019	9.7	Dorothy Johnson .....	54	293	5.4
Etta Dann .....	118	1022	8.6	Doris Neale .....	116	607	5.2
Connie Smith .....	76	637	8.3	Sophie Brown .....	103	551	5.1

## THE "ALL-TIME ALL-STAR" TEAM

A favorite pastime of basketball fans who have followed "Grad" games for many years has been the selection of a so-called "All-Star" team. To satisfy the curiosity of these fans, a contest was conducted during the course of the games played during the spring of 1940. Unfortunately, it resolved itself largely into a popularity contest, inasmuch as thousands of present-day fans had never seen some of the "oldtimers" in action. For this reason, it is extremely doubtful whether the "All-Stars" who were selected by this popular vote really constituted the strongest team that might have been selected. However, as a matter of interest, here was the result, with the vote polled by each girl:

First Team	Second Team
Noel MacDonald .....	Mabel Munton .....
Etta Dann .....	Elsie Bennie .....
Margaret MacBurney .....	Helen Northup .....
Gladys Fry .....	Mildred McCormack .....
Babe Belanger .....	Connie Smith .....
3613	1155
2919	1081
2745	1038
1424	654
1357	611

# STATISTICAL REVIEW OF THE 1939-40 SEASON

While it would not be possible in a book of this size to include a review of each year's play, a statistical review of the final year's contests is given herewith in order that our readers may appreciate the outstanding ability of this great team.

During the year's play, the Grads scored 507 field baskets from 1311 tries, for an average of 38.6%, while their opponents took 1212 field shots and scored but 256 times, for an average of 21.1%!

In foul shooting, the Grads scored 162 times on 275 shots, for an average of 58.1%, while their opponents' average was only 41.2%.

In order to appreciate the remarkable accuracy of the Grads, it might be pointed out that a composite box score of 1,000 games played by men in six state tournaments shows that the highest record in any state was only 24.7% from the field, and 47.0% from the foul line. In other words, the Grads were 13.9% more accurate from the field than were these men in state tournaments, while they were 11.1% more accurate on their foul shots!

In the following chart, the names are arranged in order of field accuracy.

"GRAD" COMPOSITE SCORE FOR SEASON 1939-40

Players	FBA	FBS	%	FSA	FSS	%	PF	Pts.
Helen Northup .....	188	85	45.2	24	16	66.6	7	186
Winnie Gallen .....	51	23	45.1	6	3	50.0	8	49
Etta Dann .....	190	83	43.6	66	44	66.6	22	210
Jean Williamson .....	261	112	42.9	73	41	56.1	14	265
Noel MacDonald .....	83	30	36.1	21	16	76.1	13	76*
Sophie Brown .....	301	103	34.2	38	20	52.6	22	226
Betty Bawden .....	68	22	32.3	6	3	50.0	3	47
Mabel Munton .....	127	37	29.1	32	17	53.1	28	91
Kay MacRitchie .....	42	12	28.5	9	2	22.2	26	8
	1311	507	38.6	275	162	58.1	125	1176

Legend: FBA, field baskets attempted; FBS, field baskets scored; FSA, foul shots attempted; FSS, foul shots scored; PF, personal fouls.

\*Noel MacDonald did not play any games in 1940.



ETTA DANN



HELEN NORTHUP

# THE GRADS OF 1940 » WORLD CHAMPIONS



MABEL MUNTON

JEAN WILLIAMSON

J. P. PAGE

WINNIE GALLEN

KAY MacRITCHIE

BETTY BAWDEN

HELEN NORTHUP

ETTA DANN

SOPHIE BROWN

## GATHERING OF THE CLAN - GRAD REUNION, JUNE 6, 1940



On June 6th, 1940, the Grads celebrated their 25th anniversary. In this picture we see many of the “greats” who attended this important function. How many of them can you name? If your memory is faulty, turn to page 32.

# Interesting Items About the "Grads"

Over a period of 25 years the Grads have played 522 games; they have won 502 and lost only 20.

The Grads have won 96.2% of their games and have scored an all-time average of 48 to 20.

From 1922 to 1940 the Grads have used only 38 players. The players on opposing teams have totalled more than 1200.

Of the above-mentioned 38 girls all but two (Gladys Fry and Mae Brown) have been students at McDougall Commercial High School.

Former captain Margaret MacBurney appeared in a Grad uniform 182 times, while former captains Gladys Fry and Elsie Bennie are next in order with 170 and 168 appearances.

The highest score ever made by the Grads was 136 points in an official game against Alberta University in 1934. Varsity scored 16 points.

The Grads have travelled more than 125,000 miles in search of, and in defence of, their many titles, including three trips to Europe.

In 1926 the Grads played ten games on 11 consecutive nights, moving quickly from Winnipeg (where the tour opened) to Chicago, Warren, Cleveland, New York, Toronto, London, and back to Toronto.

In an exhibition game at Calgary, 1924, the Grads' opponents did not score a single point, while in the Canadian finals, 1925, the Toronto Y.W.H.A. did not score a field basket in the first game.

Only seven teams have ever scored 50 or more points against the Grads. On the other hand, the Grads have turned the 50 corner no less than 162 times.

In 25 consecutive games the Grads once scored 2,016 points, averaging slightly over 80 points per game. In 25 other games (not consecutive) the team scored 2,625 points, for an average of 105 per game.

Margaret MacBurney established a world free-throw record in 1931 by scoring 61 consecutive tries. Her all-time record (covering a period of ten years) was 12.6 points per game. Noel MacDonald's record was 13.8 points per game.

The largest crowd ever to attend a basketball game in Canada was 6,792 during the second game between the Grads and the Chicago "Taylor-Trunks" in the Edmonton Arena, May 5th, 1930.

After watching the Grads in action during an international series, Dr. James Naismith, inventor of basketball, said: "The Grads have the greatest team that ever stepped out on a basketball floor".

The Grads' field accuracy record for the final season's play was 38.6%—a figure never even closely approached by any other team in the history of basketball. In the western Canadian finals, 1938, the Grads scored 45% of their shots, while in a game against Queen's University (1939) they set an all-time record by scoring 44 baskets from 77 shots, for an average of 57.1%! Etta Dann holds the record for a full season's play with an average of 46.1% (1937-38).

During the final season's play (1939-40), the Grads won 20 consecutive games with an average score of 59 to 30. They were penalized only 125 times, or an average of six times a game.

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The names of the following 38 girls appear on the official scoresheets as having taken part in one or more games during the period of 1922 to 1940: Winnie Martin, Connie Smith, Dorothy Johnson, Daisy Johnson, Eleanor Mountifield, Nellie Perry, Elizabeth Elrick, Abbie Scott, Mary Dunn, Hattie Hopkins, Helen McIntosh, Elsie Bennie, Kate Macrae, Marguerite Bailey, Margaret MacBurney, Mildred McCormack, Margaret Kinney, Jean Johnston, Gladys Fry, Babe Belanger, Doris Neale, Mae Brown, Helen Stone, Edith Stone, Evelyn Coulson, Jessie Innes, Winnie Gallen, Frances MacRitchie, Betty Ross, Noel MacDonald, Mabel Munton, Etta Dann, Helen Northup, Sophie Brown, Jean Williamson, Babe Daniel, Betty Bawden and

# THE EDMONTON OF THE "GRADS"

(Note: The following humorous account of one of those epic games between the Grads and the Tulsa "Stenos" was written by Ralph Allen, former sporting editor of the Winnipeg Tribune, and who covered this particular game. He is addressing his Winnipeg assistant, Johnny Buss. Many of those who read the article at the time—June 3, 1935—regarded it as a basketball classic, and it is reproduced at this time for the benefit of those who have never read it.)

You and your readers, Mr. Buss, may, betimes, have seen Man O'War charging down some fevered stretch or Jack Dempsey mowing down some hapless foe. You may have seen Howie Morenz flying in the van of heroic Frenchmen, while Lord Stanley's cup sat near at hand. Or Christy Mathewson, of New York, or the Four Horsemen of Notre Dame writing scraps of sporting history on the baseball diamond and the football grid. Or Bobby Jones knocking off countless pars and birdies and golfing championships. Or Percy Williams throwing a noble challenge in the beard of Father Time. Or Jack 'Obbs flaying a cricket ball for King and country. Your wandering eyes in some distant age perchance beheld the hordes of Genghis Khan and the treasure stores of India. But, take a pal's word for it, Mr. Buss, until you've seen the Edmonton Grads playing for the world's basketball championship before the home-town crowd, you haven't seen it all.

As a sporting spectacle, the Edmonton Grads belong right up there at the top alongside the Jernts, the Arsenal, the Leafs, and the Irish. This may sound to you like an extravagant statement, Mr. Buss, but please remember that I refer not so much to the Grads of Edmonton as to the Edmonton of the Grads. Had you happened to be sitting beside me at Saturday night's game between the Grads and the Tulsa Stenos, you would, I am sure, be quite prepared to accept the high ranking myself and other visiting Elks have bestowed upon them.

Accompany me, Mr. Buss, to the arena, to see the Grads and Edmonton in action. It is unfortunate that we are late and must fight our way through a portion of a crowd numbering close to 6,000 before reaching our ringside seats. The game is approximately 10 minutes old by now, and the Grads and Edmonton are trailing by some four points.

Those long lithe gals in red, who appear to be playing most of the basketball in process of production at this point, are not as you might suppose, the Grads and Edmonton, but the Stenos and the enemy. That dark young lady, who looks like Babe Didrikson's sister and has just sunk another basket, is not one of the Grad mainstays, but a member of the hostile troops. That deafening sound you hear is not the death wail of a wounded puma, but the spontaneous comment of 6,000 anguished human souls.



Settle down, Mr. Buss, in that choice seat for which a number of local citizens would gladly pay five potatoes, because this looks as though it's going to be good. The gals in gold are the Grads and they do not appear to be doing very well. In fact it looks very much as though they are due to take a tremendous trimming. You go ahead and say it, Mr. Buss, for I do not like the expression in the big blue eyes of the little lady to our rear.

Things are looking up now, Mr. Buss. The Grads have the ball. They manipulate it swiftly after the manner of the House of David putting on the pepper ball game. Cheer, Mr. Buss . . . The Grads have scored. Cheer as loudly as you wish, it won't make much difference . . . You can't hear yourself anyway. Mafeking is relieved, Mr. Buss.

Try and take it a little more easily, Mr. Buss. Get a grip on yourself. What if the Stenos have scored five points in a row and are now nine points ahead? The Grads always finish strong, don't they? Heed the moans of a city in travail and put on a brighter front. Listen to the sobs of the starving Armenians, and have feeling for them.

Oh, well, there's always another game. The Stenos are now eleven points in front. What if the Grads don't catch them. They'll win the next one. Pardon me, Mr. Buss; the remark was premature. The Grads seem to be recovering. They are now only one point behind. A bit of cotton wool, if you please, Mr. Buss; the Belanger girl has scored again, and there go your eardrums, Mr. Buss. Stand up or you can't see. Strain forward or you can't hear the timekeeper's cannon. It is half-time and the Grads are leading by one point.

Meet Mr. Page, the coach of the Grads, while the girls are having their rest. Mr. Page is perspiring slightly, and does not know who will win. Meet Eddie Shore, the hockey player. Try and get Mr. Shore to talk a little about hockey. Mr. Shore does not appear to give a damn about hockey. He is interested only in a method of stopping the Dunlap girl from Tulsa.

Come back to your seat, Mr. Buss, and get this finish. Here they come roaring down the last furlong, and the gals in red are again out in front. Four points in front. There is something less than three minutes to play. The Grads pop in a field goal. They pop in another. The score is now tied at 38-38, and that dinning in your ears will not, according to reliable scientists, be duplicated until the next world war.

One of the referees awards a double foul. The Dann girl steps up to take the throw for Edmonton. A long sh-hhh rolls across the arena and there is dead silence while the Dann girl takes her stance. This is the

winning point, if she makes it. A deserving young man three rows back inadvertently coughs and is promptly handed back an engagement ring.

The Dann girl puts one foot slightly ahead of the other, draws the ball back towards her chest and tosses it squarely through the hoop. Lindberg has landed, Mr. Buss. And now the Dunlap girl steps up to take the throw for Tulsa. A not entirely friendly murmur runs through the audience. The Dunlap girl kneels on the floor, resting, until the noise shall subside. The noise refuses to subside. Finally the gals in gold walk to widely separated points along the sidelines and hold up their right hands. Canute has stemmed the waves. Edmonton obeys the command of the Grads, and silence returns. The Dunlap girl makes it good.

There is now something less than two minutes to play and the score is once more tied. It is well that you are here, Mr. Buss, for I could never attempt to describe the pandemonium that ensues when the McBurney girl shoots a field goal. Much less could I describe what happens when the Belanger girl, a few moments later, shoots another. To use a mild expression, it is colossal. The Grads and Edmonton have won again.

Please relax, Mr. Buss, for there is no object in trying to get out of here for some half-hour yet. See the Edmonton of the Grads swarming over the floor. Hear the exultant roar of the lioness reclaiming its lost young. Hear, for 15 minutes, the sibilant chant: "We want the Grads." Then see the Grads come out to stand together on a bench while a city redeemed hails its saviours. See Mr. Page come jogging out carrying the Belanger girl in his arms, and both of them grinning, triumphant and wan.

Draw the curtain, Mr. Buss; you have seen the Grads of Edmonton and the Edmonton of the Grads and there is no need to anticlimax the most amazing spectacle this broad Dominion can offer in the line of sport.

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### GATHERING OF THE CLAN — JUNE 6, 1940

The following are the names of those appearing in the picture on page 28:

Back Row, Left to Right: Gladys Fry, Helen Stone, Connie Smith, Ethel Anderson, Elizabeth Elrick, Dorothy Johnson.

Third Row: Edith Stone, Elsie Bennie, Evelyn Coulson, Jessie Innes, Marguerite Bailey, Abbie Scott, Helen McIntosh, Daisy Johnson.

Second Row: Babe Belanger, Doris Neale, Margaret McBurney, Mildred McCormack, Winnie Martin, Hattie Hopkins, Nellie Perry, Mae Brown, Mary Dunn.

Front Row: Sophie Brown, Kay MacRitchie, Jean Williamson, Mabel Munton, J. P. Page, Mrs. Page, Etta Dann, Helen Northup, Betty Bawden. Front, centre: "Spark Plug", the Grad mascot.



# *Tribute to the "Grads"*

(1915 to 1940)

No broken army in retreat,  
    No loafers, through success gone soft,  
But lithe and firm upon their feet  
    They leave the field with flags aloft.  
The game is played, the records stand—  
    The brightest team that ever shone  
Has heard "Dismiss!" But o'er the land  
    The spirit of "The Gang" sweeps on.  
  
Forever changing, yet unchanged,  
    Tradition linking year by year,  
They met the best the world could range—  
    The best that brought no lasting peer.  
Yet, if the secret's to be found  
    In human hearts, 'tis wise to look;  
That perfect system isn't bound  
    Between the covers of a book.

They brought their city more than fame,  
    They brought their nation more than pride;  
The strongest foe, the toughest game  
    Were things they simply took in stride.  
For first they faced the inward jars—  
    The jealousy, the selfish dreams;  
Those things which make outstanding stars  
    But wreck consistent, winning teams.

The pass that meant another's score,  
    The faith that fed another's drive  
Were constant, on and off the floor,  
    For every year of twenty-five.

❖   ❖   ❖

Today we face a greater game;  
    For life and freedom must we play,  
And we shall need the gallant flame  
    The "Grads" have lit along the way.

—Frederick B. Watt.